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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,481	01/16/2004	Peter Navratil	KLR:1016.2025	7575

7590 09/18/2006

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EXAMINER

TANG, MINH NHUT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2829

DATE MAILED: 09/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on May 10, 2006 and July 24, 2006 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statements are being considered by the examiner.

It is noted that some documents are crossed out because those are either duplicated or not provided the date.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: it has been held that the recitation that an element is "capable of", "adapted for", "adapted of" performing a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. Therefore, "capable of" (line 2) should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palkuti (U.S.P. 4,575,676).

As to claim 1, Palkuti discloses, in Figs. 1-3, a probe station for testing a device under test (25) comprising a first platen (31) supporting an electrical probe (47); a chuck (41) supporting said device under test (25); a second platen (21) supporting an optical probe (33) for testing optical components (i.e., photodiode and phototransistor formed on the IC 25) on said device under test (25); said second platen (21) positioned above said device under test (25); at least 70% of the top surface of said second platen (21) terminating in free space when said optical probe (33) is not supported thereon. Palkuti discloses the claimed invention except for said first platen (31) positioned above said second platen (21). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to interchange the position of the first platen and the second platen, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art.

As to claims 2, and 4-6, Palkuti discloses in Figs. 1-3, at least 80%, 85%, 90%, and 95% of the top surface of said second platen (21) terminating in free space when said optical probe (33) is not supported thereon.

As to claim 3, Palkuti discloses in Figs. 1-3, said first platen (31) and said second platen (21) are relative movement with respect to one another.

As to claim 7, Palkuti discloses in Figs. 1-3, said second platen (21) has a greater top surface area than said first platen (31).

As to claim 8, Palkuti discloses in Figs. 1-3, said second platen (21) has a smaller top surface area than said first platen (31).

As to claim 9, Palkuti discloses in Figs. 1-3, said second platen (21) has the same surface area as said first platen (31).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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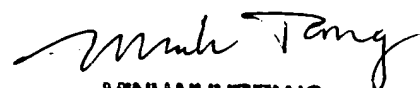
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Communication

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh N. Tang whose telephone number is (571) 272-1971. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ha T. Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1678. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**MINH NHUT TANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

9/14/06